

Message Text

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43

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 713

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT: INITIAL MEETING WITH GOB

REF: A) SOFIA 0044; B) SOFIA 0130

AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAD AN EXPLORATORY MEETING WITH DAMYANOV JAN 19 ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PER PARA 5 REF A. FORMAT OF MEETING WAS TO SEEK EXPLANATIONS AND TO SET UP PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, SO THAT WE COULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. ACTUALLY, WE ALSO TESTED FLEXIBILITY ON KEY ISSUES. THE MEETING WENT EXCEEDINGLY WELL. IN FACT, AT ONE POINT DAMYANOV (WHO CONFIRMED HE IS THE SOLE BULGARIAN NEGOTIATOR) SAID BULGARIANS "FIND THE AMERICAN DRAFT ACCEPTABLE" EXCEPT FOR ITS ABSENCE OF PROVISION FOR A JOINT COMMISSION AND, TO A SLIGHTLY LESSER EXTENT, DIFFERENCE ON DURATION. THIS PROBABLY ONLY MEANS THAT GOB COULD NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF OUR DRAFT AS WELL AS THEIRS. TO ALMOST ALL OUR QUESTIONS HE REPLIED THAT OUR INTERPRETATION WAS ALSO ACCEPTABLE, AND HE OENERALLY INDICATED MUCH FLEXIBILITY. WHILE ENCOURAGING, HIS RESPONSES REQUIRE SOME ANALYSIS. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING SUCH ANALYSIS AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS. MEANWHILE BULGARIAN TEXT AS PER REF B SHOULD BE HELD AS BACKGROUND TO OUR ANALYTIC MESSAGE, BASED ON DAMYANOV'S INTERPRETATIONS, WHICH WILL BE SENT JAN 21.

HERZ

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